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MASSACHUSETTS MAN SENTENCED FOR IDENTITY THEFT CHARGES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Salem Police Chief Paul T. Donovan, and Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office of the U.S. Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General Leo Sullivan, announced today that **KEVIN JOHNSON**, 37, of Medford, Massachusetts, was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Concord to 24 months in federal prison following his conviction on a two-count indictment for identity theft crimes. Johnson pleaded guilty to the charges on January 13, 2005.

Johnson pleaded guilty to an indictment that charged him with using the name and personal identity information of another Massachusetts resident to fraudulently obtain approximately \$10,748.96 worth of jewelry at a retail establishment in Salem, New Hampshire in December of 2003.

The apprehension and prosecution of Johnson were the result of an investigation by the Identity Crimes Working Group organized in the U.S. Attorney's Office which brings together both federal and state law enforcement agencies to combat identity theft and fraud. An intensive and coordinated investigation by agents of the Salem Police Department and the U.S. Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General resulted in Johnson's apprehension.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono commended the agencies involved stating, "The vigilance of the Salem Police Department, which first began the investigation of the fraud, followed by the joint efforts and outstanding cooperation between them and the U.S. Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General stands as a fine example of law enforcement work and professionalism at its best. This case should serve as a warning to anyone contemplating identity fraud that they will be detected, apprehended, and prosecuted."

Assistant U. S. Attorney Alfred Rubega prosecuted this case.